

SSB 5387 - S AMD 76  
By Senator Kastama

ADOPTED 02/14/2008

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "Sec. 1. RCW 28B.20.297 and 2005 c 357 s 1 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 (1) The legislature finds that small technology-based firms are the  
6 source of approximately one-half of the economy's major innovations  
7 ~~((and that))~~. The legislature further finds that economic development  
8 in the state is increasingly driven by innovative firms and that it is  
9 in the interest of the state to:

10 (a) Increase participation by Washington state small businesses in  
11 the federal small business innovation research program by assisting  
12 them in becoming small business innovation research program grant  
13 recipients(~~(-~~

14 ~~The legislature further finds that many small business innovators~~  
15 ~~lack the grant writing skills necessary to prepare a successful small~~  
16 ~~business innovation research program proposal, and the federal program~~  
17 ~~that funded grant writing assistance has stopped operations. Nearly~~  
18 ~~fifty percent of small businesses trained under the federal program won~~  
19 ~~grants compared to less than ten percent of those that did not receive~~  
20 ~~training))~~;

21 (b) Increase the number of innovative firms that understand and  
22 engage in the technology commercialization process by providing  
23 information resources and technical assistance in accessing new  
24 technologies;

25 (c) Increase funding for product development and production by  
26 providing information on available finance options and facilitating the  
27 matching of investors with innovative entrepreneurs; and

28 (d) Coordinate these commercialization, assistance, and information  
29 functions through existing statewide organizations and reinforce

1 collaboration among the network of the state's research, economic  
2 development and technology assistance organizations for this purpose.

3 (2) As used in this section:

4 (a) "Small business innovation research program" means the program,  
5 enacted pursuant to the small business innovation development act of  
6 1982, P.L. 97-219, that provided funds to small businesses to conduct  
7 innovative research having commercial application.

8 (b) "Small business" means a corporation, partnership, sole  
9 proprietorship, or individual, operating a business for profit, with  
10 two hundred fifty employees or fewer, including employees employed in  
11 a subsidiary or affiliated corporation, that otherwise meets the  
12 requirements of the federal small business innovation research program.

13 (3) To the extent funds are appropriated for these purposes, the  
14 Washington technology center shall provide or contract for the  
15 provision of the following in conjunction with the state's public  
16 universities and colleges, private and federal research laboratories,  
17 and local and regional economic development and technology assistance  
18 organizations:

19 (a) Establish a small business innovation research assistance  
20 program, including a proposal review process, to train and assist  
21 Washington small businesses to win phase I small business innovation  
22 research program awards. ((+a)) In operating the program the  
23 Washington technology center shall give priority to first-time small  
24 business innovation research program applicants, new businesses, and  
25 firms with fewer than ten employees((-)):

26 (b) Develop and disseminate a guide to the technology  
27 commercialization process in the research and academic institutions in  
28 the state;

29 (c) Develop, maintain, and provide access to a database of  
30 technologies and inventions developed in the state available for  
31 commercialization and licensing;

32 (d) Offer training on the provision of commercialization assistance  
33 to technical assistance providers at the state's small business  
34 development centers, economic development councils, chambers of  
35 commerce, industry cluster associations, the Washington manufacturing  
36 service, and private consulting firms;

37 (e) Develop a funding resource guide, offer workshops on how to  
38 access financing for commercializing new technologies, provide

1 opportunities for novice investors to learn about investing in  
2 technology-based companies, host events to connect entrepreneurs and  
3 investors, and maintain an interactive web site accessible by  
4 researchers, entrepreneurs, and investors; and

5 (f) Report on the impact of commercialization activities at  
6 Washington research institutions on an annual basis.

7 (4) The Washington technology center may charge a fee for ((this  
8 service)) its services."

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9 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "technologies;" strike the  
10 remainder of the title and insert "and amending RCW 28B.20.297."

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